

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/11/2023 5:56:00 PM

First name: sharon

Last name: coughlin

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please do not allow the logging of public lands such as the Green Mountain National Forest. We lose forests and open space every day. Logging is not the best way to manage our public lands.

Our public forests act as a sink for the excess heat, rainwater, and carbon dioxide that we are experiencing due to climate change. Mature old growth forests are particularly effective at mitigating the effects of climate change. Deer, bear, and other wildlife lose habitat when logging occurs. They run into backyard and roadways when habitat such as this is destroyed. Additionally, logging habitat leads to the possibility of extinction for threatened and endangered species (such as the northern long eared bat, found in this National Forest). Once a species goes extinct, the ecosystem is at risk of collapse. Scientists are warning us that we must maintain at least 50% of our land for wildlife habitat, or we are at risk of collapsing wildlife populations, pollinator populations (bats act as pollinators), and entire ecosystems.

Voters value and consistently vote to protect open space. Please protect our public forests and our open space from corporations and individuals who only want to profit off our natural resources. Our forests and open spaces provide a good quality of life (hiking, recreation, peacefulness, protection from the effects of climate change, wildlife habitat) for the American public, and we don't want our natural resources taken away for someone else to profit from.

Thank you very much.

Sharon Coughlin